

OVERSIGHT OF THE AMTRAK ACCIDENT IN PHILADELPHIA

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Amtrak Accident in Philadelphia”. Testimony was heard from Christopher Hart, Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board; Sarah Feinberg, Acting Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on H.R. 356, the “Wounded Warrior Employment Improvement Act”; H.R. 832, the “Veterans Employment and Training Service Longitudinal Study Act of 2015”; H.R. 1994, the “VA Accountability Act of 2015”; H.R. 2133, the “Servicemembers' Choice in Transition Act”; H.R. 2275, the “Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015”; H.R. 2344, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the vocational rehabilitation programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 2360, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the approval of certain programs of education for purposes of educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 2361, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority to provide work-study allowance for certain activities by individuals receiving educational assistance by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and a draft bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain modifications and improvements in the transfer of unused educational assistance benefits under the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from Representatives Flores; Cook; and Sean Patrick Maloney of New York; Curtis L. Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Teresa W. Gerton, Acting Assistant Secretary, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, Department of Labor; Susan S. Kelly, Director, Transition to Veterans Program Office, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 160, the “Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2015”; H.R. 1190, the “Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2015”; S. 984, the “Steve Gleason Act of 2015”; S. 971, the “Medicare Independence at Home Medical Practice Demonstration Improvement Act of 2015”; H.R. 2580,

the “LTCH Technical Correction Act of 2015”; H.R. 2505, the “Medicare Advantage Coverage Transparency Act of 2015”; H.R. 2506, the “Seniors' Health Care Plan Protection Act of 2015”; H.R. 2507, the “Increasing Regulatory Fairness Act of 2015”; H.R. 2579, the “Securing Care for Seniors Act of 2015”; and H.R. 2581, the “Preservation of Access for Seniors in Medicare Advantage Act of 2015”. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 160, H.R. 2580, H.R. 2505, H.R. 2506, H.R. 2507, H.R. 2579, and H.R. 2581. The following bills were ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 1190, S. 984, and S. 971.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D613)

H.R. 1690, to designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the “Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse”. Signed on May 29, 2015. (Public Law 114–20)

H.R. 2353, to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund. Signed on May 29, 2015. (Public Law 114–21)

S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking. Signed on May 29, 2015. (Public Law 114–22)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine challenges and implications of EPA's proposed national ambient air quality standard for ground-level ozone, including S. 638, to amend the Clean Air Act with respect to exceptional event demonstrations, S. 751, to improve the establishment of any lower ground-level ozone standards, and S. 640, to amend the Clean Air Act to delay the review and revision of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, “Audit & Appeal Fairness, Integrity, and Reforms in Medicare Act of 2015”, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine implications of the Iran nuclear agreement for United States policy in the Middle East, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on ensuring college affordability, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine top government investigator positions left unfilled for years, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: business meeting to consider S. 1292, to amend the Small Business Act to treat certain qualified disaster areas as HUBZones and to extend the period for HUBZone treatment for certain base closure areas, an original bill entitled, "Recovery Improvements for Small Entities (RISE) After Disaster Act of 2015", an original resolution expressing the sense of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate that the rule relating to the definition of the term "waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act will have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities, the nomination of Douglas J. Kramer, of Kansas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SR-428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine S. 207, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran, S. 297, to revive and expand the Intermediate Care Technician Pilot Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 425, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs, S. 471, to improve the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 684, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans, and other pending calendar business, 2:30 p.m., SR-418.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Review of Agricultural Subsidies in Foreign Countries", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, markup on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill, FY 2016, 10:30 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Congressional Budget Office: Oversight Hearing", 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Compulsory Unionization

through Grievance Fees: The NLRB's Assault on Right-to-Work", 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2576, the "TSCA Modernization Act of 2015"; and H.R. 2583, the "Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2015" (continued), 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled "Discussion Draft on Accountability and Department of Energy Perspectives on Title IV: Energy Efficiency", 2 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining the Export-Import Bank's Reauthorization Request and the Government's Role in Export Financing", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled "U.S. Policy Towards ISIL After Terror Group Seizes Ramadi and Palmyra", 12 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled "The Future of U.S.-Zimbabwe Relations", 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Terrorism Gone Viral: The Attack in Garland, Texas and Beyond", 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled "House Officer Priorities for 2016 and Beyond", 1 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on a discussion draft entitled the "Returning Resilience to our Overgrown, Fire-prone National Forests Act of 2015", 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Ensuring Agency Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)", 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Road Ahead: Small Businesses and the Need for a Long-Term Surface Transportation Reauthorization", 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Assessing VA's Ability to Promptly Pay Non-VA Providers", 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Human Resources, hearing entitled "Protecting the Safety Net from Waste, Fraud, and Abuse", 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine the employment effects of the Affordable Care Act, 2:30 p.m., SD-562.